



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/796,181

03/10/2004

Kenji Tani

1560-0411P

3272

2292 7590 04/16/2008  
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH  
PO BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

SARPONG, AKWASI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/16/2008

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/796,181	TANI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	AKWASI M. SARPONG	2625	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-92 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/12/2005</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

DETAILED ACTION

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (7228339) in view of Iwamura (6807285).

**Claims 1-4** Yamamoto discloses an image processing method which uses an image processing apparatus (**Remote Printer, Fig.3**) for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section (**Storage service, Fig. 3**) and then performing the output processing of the color image data (**Fig. 12, Picture M9**) stored in said storage section, (**Col.18 Lines 33-67 and Col. 19 Lines 1-38-thus Yamamoto discloses clearly a method that shows how users sent an image data (Picture M9) to a printer**) said method comprising the steps of

authenticating the requestor of the output processing of the received color image data; (**Col. 7 Lines 43-60, Fig. 1 El. 33-thus the user has to issue a password and ID for it to verified before access is granted**).

extracting a specific color portion (**Confidential data**) of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed; and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. (**Col. 4 Lines 40-67 and Col. 5 Lines 1-28, thus when**

**the user sent his or her personnel information for authentication since this information is confidential it is taking out of the printed image).**

Yamamoto is silent about how the personnel information is transmitted and extracted from the actual image data.

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion (**Confidential data**) of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed; and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. (Abstract Lines 4-9, Col. 7 Lines 33-66-thus the confidential information is watermarked or made invisible to the public or not printed). Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's printing system to include Iwamura's printing system an extracting section that makes confidential data invincible or not public so that disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

**Claims 5-8** An image processing apparatus for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section (**Storage service, Fig. 3**) and then performing the output processing of the color image data stored in said storage section, (**Col. 4 lines 3-25, Fig. 1 Clearly shows that the image is sent to the storage sever and eventually printed in El. 11**) said apparatus comprising:

an authenticating section (**Fig. 1 El. 21**) for authenticating the requestor of the output processing of the received color image data; (**Col. 4 Lines 49-53-thus the users are verified before access is granted to the user**).

an extracting section for extracting a specific color portion of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed in said authenticating section; and an output stopping section for stopping the output of the specific color portion extracted by said extracting section. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-67 and Col. 5 Lines 1-28, thus when the user sent his or her personnel information for authentication since this information is confidential it is taking out of the printed image).**

Yamamoto is silent about how the personnel information is transmitted and extracted from the actual image data.

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion **(Confidential data)** of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed; and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. (Abstract Lines 4-9, Col. 7 Lines 33-66-thus the confidential information is watermarked or made invisible to the public or not printed). Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's printing system to include Iwamura's printing system an extracting section that makes confidential data invincible or not public so that disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

**Claims 9-12, Yamamoto (Col. 4 Lines 16-25, Fig. 1 El. 20-thus both the personnel and the image is stored in a different sections of the data storage section )** in view of Iwamura wherein said storage section comprises: a semiconductor storage device for storing the specific color portion of the received image data; and a

magnetic storage device for storing a non-specific color portion other than the specific color portion of the received image data.

**Claim 13-16, Yamamoto (Col. 7 Lines 35-45-thus the data are temporarily stored)** in view of Iwamura further comprising a deleting section for deleting the specific color portion which is stored in said storage section and the output processing of which is completed, once the output processing is completed.

**Claim 17-20, Yamamoto (Col.5 Lines 42-51, Fig. 1 El. 22)** in view of Iwamura further comprising an encrypting section for encrypting the specific color portion to be stored into said storage section.

**Claim 21-24, Yamamoto (Fig. 4, El. P51 clearly shows that print data are received when they are sent by the user)** in view of Iwamura, further comprising a specific color reception section for receiving the specification of a specific color.

**Claim 25-32,** “ wherein importance levels are set for said specific colors” reads on Iwamura’s fig 5 since it breaks the image data into various parts.

**Claim 33-36, Yamamoto** in view of Iwamura **(Col. 9 Lines 11-16, Fig. 5-thus the embedded information is extracted from the image data and therefore it is**

**part of the Character portion of the image)** discloses wherein said specific color portion is a character portion in a specific color.

**Claim 37-40**, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura (**Col. 9 Lines 11-16, Fig. 5-thus the embedded information is extracted from the image data and therefore it is part of the Character portion of the image)** discloses, wherein said specific color portion is a graphics portion containing a specific color.

**Claim 41-44**, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura (**Col. 13 Lines 4-20**) wherein said output stopping section replaces the specific color portion with a predetermined mark.

**Claim 45-48**, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura (**Col. 6 Lines 45-65-thus the discrimination circuit takes the confidential and the non-confidential sections and therefore shows the user which side of the image data is for the public and which are secret**) discloses a notifying section for notifying the output stop of the specific color portion, when the output of the specific color portion is stopped.

**Claim 49-51**, Yamamoto discloses an image processing apparatus for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section (**Storage service, Fig. 3**) and then performing output processing (**Printing**) including the transmission of the color image data stored in said storage section, (**Col. 4 lines 3-25, Fig. 1 Clearly shows that**

**the image is sent to the storage sever and eventually printed in El. 11)** said apparatus comprising:

a destination storing section **(Fig. 1 El. 20)** for storing a destination to which the transmission of a specific color portion of the received color image data is allowed; **(Col. 4 Lines 5-15)**

an extracting section for extracting the specific color portion of the received color image data, when the destination of the received color image data is not stored in said destination storing section; and an output stopping section for stopping the output of the specific color portion extracted by said extracting section. **(Col. 4 Lines 40-67 and Col. 5 Lines 1-28, thus when the user sent his or her personnel information for authentication since this information is confidential it is taking out of the printed image).**

Yamamoto is silent about how the personnel information is transmitted and extracted from the actual image data.

Iwamura clearly teaches extracting a specific color portion **(Confidential data)** of the received color image data, when the authentication is not completed; and stopping the output of the extracted specific color portion. (Abstract Lines 4-9, Col. 7 Lines 33-66-thus the confidential information is watermarked or made invisible to the public or not printed). Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's printing system to include Iwamura's printing system an extracting



section that makes confidential data invincible or not public so that disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

**Claim 52-56**, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses wherein said output processing includes the transmission of the image data, and wherein said apparatus further comprises an encrypting section (**Yamamoto: Fig. 1 El. 22**) for encrypting the specific color portion of the image data to be transmitted. (**Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 14-25-thus the secret or confidential data are password protected or encrypted**)

**Claim 57-62**, Yamamoto (**Fig. 1 EL 23 shows clearly that the image data is transmitted to a printer**) in view of Iwamura discloses a transmitting section for transmitting specific color information concerning the specific color.

**Claim 63-66**, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses an image processing apparatus for receiving color image data so as to store the data into a storage section (**Storage service, Fig. 3**) and then performing output processing including the transmission of the color image data stored in said storage section or alternatively the transmission with the exclusion of a specific color, (**Col. 4 lines 3-25, Fig. 1 Clearly shows that the image is sent to the storage sever and eventually printed in El. 11**) said apparatus comprising:

an acquiring section (**Fig. 2 El. 13-thus the data is acquired by the user entering the information into the system**) for acquiring specific color information concerning the specific color of the received color image data (**Col. 5 Lines 29-41-thus the data is uploaded in to the system**)

a destination storing section (**Fig. 1 El. 20**) for storing a destination to which the transmission of the specific color portion of the received color image data is allowed (**Col. 4 Lines 5-15**).

Yamamoto is silent about how the personnel information entered for authentication is extracted from the actual image data

Iwamura discloses an extracting section for extracting the specific color portion of the received color image data; and an output stopping section for stopping the output of the specific color portion extracted by said extracting section, when said determining section determines that the destination of the color image data is not stored in said destination storing section. (Abstract Lines 4-9, Col. 7 Lines 33-66-thus the confidential information is watermarked or made invisible to the public or not printed).

Moreover Iwamura determines a determining section (**Fig. 2 El. 202**) for determining whether the destination of the color image data the specific color information of which is acquired by said acquiring section is stored in said destination storing section or not. (**Col. 9 Lines 34-45-thus the discrimination circuit makes the determination of which part of the image is confidential and which part is not**).

Therefore it will be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to modify Yamamoto's printing system to include Iwamura's printing system an extracting section that makes

confidential data invincible or not public so that disclosed by Iwamura in Col. 1 Lines 30-50.

**Claims 67-71, Yamamoto (Col. 5 Lines 1-10-thus the personnel information entered which is used for authentication are extracted and kept confidential)** in view of Iwamura discloses wherein said specific color information is added to the received image data, while said acquiring section acquires the specific color information added to the received image data.

**Claims 72-78, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura (Col. 8 Lines 37-51-thus the picture shown in Fig. 11 comprises a lot of colors)** discloses wherein a plurality of colors are used as said specific color.

**Claims 79-84, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses an information processing apparatus comprising:**

a reception section for receiving specific color information concerning a specific color (**Yamamoto: Fig. 4 El. P51 shows clearly a section that receives the transmitted object**) and

a converting section for converting into said specific color a predetermined color in the image data to be transmitted to said image processing apparatus (**Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 40-51**) .

**Claims 85-92, Yamamoto in view of Iwamura discloses an information processing device that further comprising**

an adding section for adding the specific color information received by said reception section to the image data to be transmitted, **(Yamamoto: Col. 5 Lines 1-10- thus the personnel information is added to the image data to be transmitted)** wherein said information processing apparatus transmits the image data to which the specific color information is added by said adding section **(Fig. 1 El. 23 shows clearly the transmission section of the system).**

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AKWASI M. SARPONG whose telephone number is (571)270-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

AMS  
03/04/2008

